

BOOK REVIEWS

REVIEW OF MEDICAL MICROBIOLOGY—Twelfth Edition—Ernest Jawetz, PhD, MD, Professor of Microbiology and Chairman, Department of Microbiology, Professor of Medicine, Lecturer in Pediatrics, University of California School of Medicine, San Francisco; Joseph L. Melnick, PhD, Distinguished Service Professor of Virology and Epidemiology, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston; Edward A. Adelberg, PhD, Professor of Human Genetics, Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven. Lange Medical Publications, Drawer L, Los Altos CA (94022), 1976. 542 pages, \$10.00.

The new "Jawetz" maintains the familiar format of the previous issues. It commences with a useful and appropriate discussion of basic microbiology including the relationship of microorganisms to other groups of living organisms, structure and physiology, genetics, antimicrobial substances including disinfectants, germicides and antibiotics. A chapter on bacteriophage is also included in the first quarter of the book. Three concise, well-done chapters are devoted to immunology: host-parasite relationships, antigens and antibodies, and antibody- and cell-mediated immune reactions. These are followed by ten chapters specifically devoted to pathogenic bacteria, one on normal microbial flora of the body, one on pathogenic fungi (and actinomycetes), a chapter on diagnostic medical microbiology, 14 chapters on virology, and an appendix on medical parasitology.

In this 12th edition of the *Review of Medical Microbiology* is once again seen the fine updating characteristic of its predecessors. I have found this to be an extremely useful book but have some recurring concerns. In some parts, especially in the treatment of virology (202 pages), the term "review" in the title is somewhat of a misnomer. While Chapter 27 "General Properties of Viruses" is especially helpful, laying essential groundwork on classification, replication, pathogenesis and immunology, and the currentness of information is exemplary; for example, in the chapters on hepatitis and orthomyxo (influenza) virus, the depth of coverage in chapters 30 through 40 is excessive and out of keeping with the concept of a "review." A greater selectivity in dealing with the virology would be appropriate. Occasional other examples of this need can be cited; for example, there seems little justification for enumerating the alpha through delta hemolysins of *Staphylococcus aureus*.

The section on Pasteurellae (including *Yersinia* and *Francisella*) could be improved by dealing separately with each specific organism and corresponding disease. Also, it is time for the "Appendix: Medical Parasitology" to be accorded full status as a chapter. Reduction in the number or sizes, or both, of the illustrations of protozoa and helminths (they occupy 11 pages) so that diagrams of some life cycles could be included would improve this section.

Other minor suggested changes can be offered; for example, excision of the actinomycetes from the chapter on pathogenic fungi, inclusion of *Bacteroides* in Table 3-1 (principal groups of bacteria), placement of spectinomycin (an aminocyclitol) nearer the somewhat related other aminocyclitol (aminoglycoside) antibiotics; and the connection between metachromatic granules of corynebacteria (p. 192) and polyphosphate (volutin) (p. 9) should be made.

One concern expressed to me by medical students is that the *Review of Medical Microbiology* is difficult to read perhaps because of inclusion of so much information squeezed into a relatively small space and print. Careful editing with attachment of an appendix as a repository of the detail such as that cited above in connection with the virology section could enhance its usefulness and readability.

The foregoing criticisms are far outweighed by the benefits provided by the *Review of Medical Microbiology*. Drs. Jawetz, Melnick and Adelberg, and Lange Medical Publications have sustained the high quality work which continues to yield a fine, practical, up-to-date and reasonably priced textbook.

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RECENT ADVANCES IN RHEUMATOLOGY—Part 1: Underlying Mechanisms of Disease—Part 2: Clinical Features and Treatment—Edited by W. Watson Buchanan, MD, FRCP, Professor of Medicine, Centre for Rheumatic Diseases and University Department of Medicine, Royal Infirmary, Glasgow; and W. Carson Dick, MD, MRCP, Honorary Clinical Lecturer, Department of Medicine, University of Glasgow, Consultant Physician, Centre for Rheumatic Diseases and University Department of Medicine, Royal Infirmary, Glasgow. Churchill Livingstone—Medical Division, Longman, Inc., 19 West 44th St., New York City (10036), 1976. Part 1: 214 pages, \$24.50; Part 2: 218 pages, \$24.50.

In this attractive brace of volumes, the editors have conveniently divided recent basic developments in certain rheumatic diseases from clinical features and treatment. No attempt has been made to review the entire field of rheumatology, as has been done in Volume 19, No. 6, Supplemental, of *Arthritis and Rheumatism*. Rather, the focus has been directed at certain of the most significant advances. Utilizing the skills of a prestigious group of contributors, particularly from the United Kingdom and the United States, the editors have achieved an international flavor.

In part one, "Underlying Mechanisms of Disease," chapters are devoted to osteoarthritis as a state of altered physiology (a departure from the hallowed "wear and tear" concept), amyloidosis, dermatomyositis and polymyositis, SLE in man and animals, experimental evaluation of immunosuppressive drugs in the context of connective tissue diseases, pathogenesis of autoimmune diseases, and the role of inflammatory mediators in joint inflammation.

Highlighting part two with an excellent selection of plates and figures, the authors and editors discuss the recent advances in the clinical features and treatment primarily of rheumatoid arthritis. Chapters are devoted to drug evaluation, including the latest nonsteroidal antiinflammatory agents as well as those of earlier vintage. Two chapters describe the various surgical procedures available for joints. Ocular hazards in connective tissue disease, including keratoconjunctivitis sicca, uveitis and scleritis, are discussed with clarity. Of particular importance is the final chapter, which concerns the relationship of the seronegative spondylarthritides to one of the most exciting developments in rheumatology—the histocompatibility antigen HLA-B27.

Both of these volumes are well organized and written. Although basic research scientists might find the discussions rather simplified, those engaged primarily in clinical rheumatology will welcome this approach. Part two should prove especially rewarding also to general physicians, orthopedic surgeons and students. Minor and unimportant negative criticisms would include the presence of fairly frequent typographical errors and the practice of some of the authors liberally to intersperse their sentences with the names of all cited references. In their zeal to give full credit, the contributors sometimes impair the free flow of syntax. In sum, however, these volumes are highly recommended.

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